

Message Text

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PAGE 01 OTTAWA 00371 250000Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-02 ISO-00 AGRE-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00
PA-02 USIA-15 PRS-01 SP-02 EB-08 COME-00 TRSE-00
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FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6085

UNCLAS OTTAWA 00371

FOR EUR/CAN ROUSE

PASS AGRIC FAS/RIESZ

SUBJECT: BORDER BLOCKADE - PRESS UPDATE

1. IN CP WIRE STORY DATELINED WINNIPEG JANUARY 20,
ED OLDERSHAW OF OLDERSHAW-COUCH LIVESTOCK ORDER BUYERS LTD.,
CHARGED THAT NORTH DAKOTA WAS SUPPORTING EFFORTS OF ITS
FARMERS TO BLOCK IMPORTS OF CANADIAN CATTLE. CHARGE WAS
MADE AFTER 10 CATTLE TRUCKS TURNED BACK AT PEMBINA.
OLDERSHAW SAID THEY HAD HAD ABSOLUTELY NO COOPERATION FROM
THE NORTH DAKOTA GOVERNMENT. THE NEWS STORY REFERRED TO A
TELEPHONE INTERVIEW WITH COL. RALPH WOOD, HIGHWAY PATROL
CHIEF IN WHICH WOOD SAID THAT THE PATROL HAD NOT YET REACHED
AN OFFICIAL POLICY ON THE BLOCKADE. QUOTE IF THEY (THE
CATTLE TRUCKS) COME BACK, WE'LL HAVE TO CONSIDER THE MATTER
AGAIN. THAT'S ABOUT ALL I'M PERMITTED TO TELL YOU UNQUOTE.

2. ANOTHER CP WIRE STORY DATELINED ESTEVAN, SASK. JAN.
19 REPORTED ON A THREE HOUR MEETING INVOLVING 35 NORTH
DAKOTA FARMERS AND A LARGE CONTINGENT OF S.E. SASKATCHEWAN
FARMERS. CLARENCE HOOKENSON, PRESIDENT OF THE SASKATCHEWAN
FEDERATION OF AGRICULTURE WAS REPORTED TO HAVE SAID HE WAS
NOT CONVINCED THE PRESENT BLOCKADE WAS ADVERSELY AFFECTING
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PAGE 02 OTTAWA 00371 250000Z

THE CANADIAN PRODUCER AND FELT IT SHOULD BE SUPPORTED BY
CANADIAN FARMERS. EVAN THORDARSON, PRESIDENT OF THE
WESTERN CANADIAN COW-CALF ASSOCIATION STATED THE BLOCKADE
OF CANADIAN BEEF INTO THE U.S. WAS JUSTIFIED. BOTH
CANADIANS QUOTED ALSO STATED THAT PRODUCERS ARE ENTITLED
TO PRICES THAT COVER COST OF PRODUCTION AND A REASONABLE
PROFIT. DUEMLING.

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